



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Mel Katz, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Lew • Judy McCarty • MaryAnne Pintar • Natalie Rencher • Katie Sullivan

MINUTES

San Diego Public Library
Wednesday, September 6, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Mel Katz, Matthew Hervey, Susan Lew, Judy McCarty, Natalie Rencher

Absent: MaryAnne Pintar, Katie Sullivan

Staff: Ted Martinez, Deputy Chief Operating Officer; Anna Tatár, Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Margaret Kazmer, Deputy Director; Darren Greenhalgh, Senior Civil Engineer; Joan Raphael, Librarian III; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

Public: Thomas Jamieson, Serra System Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 2006 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The annual meeting will be on Saturday, September 9 at 9:30 am at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library. New Main Library architect Rob Quigley will be providing a project update.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Tom Jamieson

Tom Jamieson reported that the Advisory Board voted to reduce their annual meetings to four with an additional training meeting.

Brenda Mason, an attorney, is interested in replacing Tom on the Board.

The graduate student funded by the Board put on five successful programs at Imperial County libraries.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz

Commissioner Katz discussed the *San Diego Union-Tribune* article on the Main Library. He said the reporter spent more than 30 hours on research. He told her that he is confident that the \$50 million in private funding will come in, enabling the project to move forward. He noted that problems in the City, including the impact of the two mayoral races, had made it difficult to raise funds.

Commissioner Katz reported that fundraising for branch library projects has also been moving forward.

The San Diego Library Foundation has new officers: Judith Harris is President, Commissioner Katz is Vice-President, Mary Walshok is Secretary, and John Messner is Treasurer. Judith Harris has been visiting branch libraries and working to address their funding needs.

DEPUTY CHIEF UPDATE: Ted Martinez

Mr. Martinez said that responding to the requirements in the Kroll report will be very expensive. He noted that the Mayor is still in support of the new Main Library.

The Deputy Chiefs have been asked to submit a three year plan with priorities for their business centers. For Neighborhood Services, Business Process Re-Engineering is the top priority. Reviewing and updating the building plan for libraries is also planned.

Commissioner Katz asked whether the operating budget just approved for FY 2007 is being looked at again for savings. Mr. Martinez responded that everything is being reviewed again. Commissioner Katz expressed his continued support of maintaining operating hours, noting the direct correlation between reduced hours and reduced usage including circulation.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- Ms. Tatár reported that Margaret Kazmer will be retiring September 28. She has worked for the Library for 32 years, and worked on the new Main Library project for 23 years. Commissioners will be invited to the retirement party scheduled for the evening of September 28.

- Ms. Tatár introduced Joan Raphael, who is chairing the Children's Centralized Collection Committee. She provided an overview of the plan, which the committee has been working on since August 2005.

In order to obtain input, all branches were visited, and input obtained from librarians on the needs of the branches. Best practices of other library systems have also been reviewed. A plan has been devised to phase in centralized ordering.

Commissioner Hervey asked how receptive librarians are to centralized collection development. Ms. Raphael responded that about half have strong opinions either in support or opposition, while others are waiting until it is implemented before deciding.

Commissioner Lew asked how different demographics are handled. Ms. Raphael replied that the plan will address population needs, and input is provided by branch librarians. Ms. Tatár also added that grant funds are sometimes used to purchase special materials such as books in other languages. The Central Sections and branches with special needs work together to place orders.

- Ms. Tatár reported that there should be funds from the California Teleconnect Fund and E-rate reimbursements to enable the Library to purchase a new integrated library system this fiscal year.
- In response to a question posed at a previous Commission meeting, Ms. Tatár said that the only restriction on Public Library Fund expenditures is that the grant cannot be used to supplant local funds.
- Sammy's Woodfired Pizza is collecting gently used children's books on September 6 and 7 which will be donated to literacy programs, and in return donors will get a free messy sundae.
- James Fallows, author of *Blind Into Baghdad*, will be speaking at the Point Loma/Hervey Library on September 19 as part of the Great American Writers Series.
- Rancho Bernardo will be receiving a bequest of approximately \$900,000, and a \$360,000 undesignated bequest will be coming to the Library.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Darren Greenhalgh provided an update of library system projects.

- North University Community Branch Library should be ready to open in March, 2007.
- College/Rolando Branch has a punch list of issues to be remedied.

- Main Library site remediation contract has been awarded but work has not yet begun. Plans should be ready for final approval in October.
- Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch is scheduled to open December 2.
- The Skyline Hills Branch project is on hold pending resolution of some issues in the community. Without the availability of bond funds, additional funding to complete the project needs to be identified.

10.b Budget Update

No report.

10.c Legislative Update

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

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